

The metadata content standard: RDA

Gordon Dunsire

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Union Catalog – Services and Tools

Based on a presentation created by the Joint
Steering Committee for Revision of AACR

Overview

What is RDA and why is it needed?

History and support

- Recent changes in the cataloguing environment
- Development of RDA to date

What is RDA?

Resource Description and Access

- Working title for a new cataloguing code based on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR).
 - World's most used content standard for bibliographic description and access

Why is it needed?

- To simplify the rules to encourage use as an international content standard for metadata
- Provide more consistency and less redundancy for easier use and interpretation
- Improve collocation in displays through work/expression relationships and a new approach to General Material Designations

Why is it needed?

- Get back to more principle-based rules that build cataloguers' judgement
Founded on international cataloguing principles
Encourage the application of the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records model

History

1841: Panizzi's rules for British Museum.

1876: Cutter's rules.

1902-1949: Separate U.S. and U.K. rules.

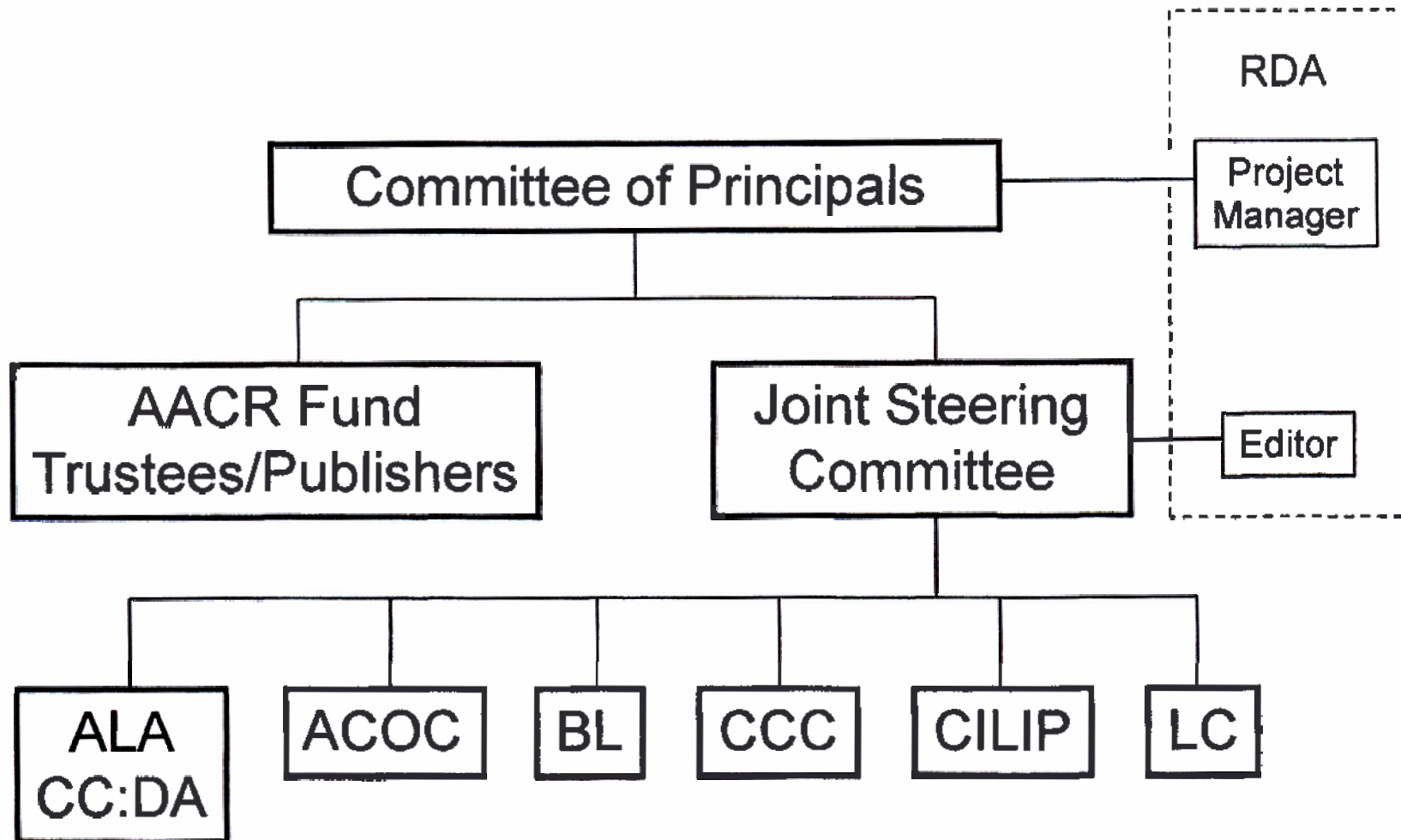
1961: Lubetzky, IFLA and "Paris Principles".

1967: AACR, North American/UK differences.

1969: IFLA and International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD).

1978: AACR2.

Supporting structure



Recent history

- 1997: International Conference on the Principles and Future Development of AACR, Toronto.
 - Worldwide experts invited by JSC identified issues:
 - Principles
 - Content vs Carrier
 - Logical structure of the Rules
 - Seriality
 - Internationalization

Recent history

- 1998: FRBR published by IFLA.
 - Reinforces basic objectives of catalogues and importance of relationships for users to carry out basic tasks:
 - Find – Identify – Select – Obtain
 - Structure allows collocation at Work/Expression level
 - Conceptual model of entities, relationships and attributes independent of communication format or data structure

Recent history

- 2003-2007: IFLA updates and reaffirms Paris Principles.
 - Regional meetings, world-wide
 - Incorporates FRBR concepts
 - Focussing on current environment of online catalogues and planning for future systems

“Cataloguing” today

Need to provide access to a wider range of information carriers, with a greater depth and complexity of content

- Bibliographic metadata is created by a wider range of personnel
 - Authors, administrators, cataloguers, computers, etc.
 - Varying levels of skill and ability (and cost)
- Many new metadata formats

Formats

Metadata packaging (communication) standards

MAchine Readable Cataloging (UNIMARC, MARC21, MODS/MADS, MARCXML)

- Dublin Core, Encoded Archival Description, ISBD, VRA, MPEG7, ...!!!
- Cataloguing rules need to remain independent of any communication format
 - JSC Strategic plan
 - RDA is not MARC21, ok?

JSC Strategic plan goals

- Continue to base rules on principles, and cover all types of materials
- Foster use world-wide, while deriving rules from Anglophone conventions and customs
- Make rules easy to use and interpret
- Make applicable to an online, networked environment
- Provide effective bibliographic control for all types of media
- Make compatible with other similar standards
- Encourage use beyond the library community

Strategic plan targets

New code in 2009

New introductions; content rules and updated examples; authority control; FRBR terminology; simplification to reduce redundancy and improve consistency

Reach out to other communities to achieve greater alignment with other standards

- Web-based product/tool as well as loose-leaf
 - With added functionality (e.g. internal and external links to specific rules) and interoperability with cataloguing and access tools
 - Demo (<http://www.rdaonline.org/>) shows integration with data input templates and task-oriented workflow

Structure

- Pt.A: Description
 - General guidelines
 - Identification of the resource
 - Technical (carrier) description (FRBR “Select”)
 - Categories of type and form
 - Content description (FRBR “Select”)
 - Categories of type and form
 - Acquisition and access information (FRBR “Obtain”)
 - Relationships between resources (FRBR “Find”)
 - Resource – Agent (Persons, Corporate bodies, Families)
 - Resource – Resource (Works, Expressions, Manifestations, Items)

Structure

Pt.A: Description

- Arranged by attribute
FRBR user tasks
- Source and composition of attribute content
Notes
- Use as access point

Structure

Pt.B: Access point control

- Choice of access points
- General guidelines
- Persons, Families, Corporate bodies, Places
- Works, Expressions, etc.
- Other information
- Purpose, scope, authorized and un-authorized forms

Appendices (display standards, ISBD, capitalization, abbreviations, numbers)

Glossary and Index

Timetable

- Jul 05: Prospectus published ✓
- Oct 05-Apr 06: Pt.A: 1-5; constituency review ✓
 - Mar-Jul 06: Development of RDA/ONIX framework and high-level ontology for content/carrier formats ✓
- May-Sep 06: Pt.A: 6-7; constituency review ✓
- Mar-Jun 07: Pt.A: 3 (Carrier); constituency review
- Jun-Sep 07: Pt.A: 6-7 revised; constituency review
- Dec 07-Mar 08: Pt.B; constituency review
- Jul-Sep 08: Complete draft for review
- Early 2009: Publication of RDA

RDA and other standards

RDA/ONIX framework for resource categorization

Content, carrier

- <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january07/dunsire/01dunsire.html>

RDA/MARC21 mapping

RDA/Dublin core mapping

Discussions with DC/IEEE-LOM

RDA concerns

- RDA = MARC21 (or any other metadata encoding format or syntax)
 - No, it is about metadata content, not structure.
- RDA seems bloated
 - It is primarily a hyper-document (digital); bloat occurs when drafts are published linearly for review (common content must be duplicated).
 - No community will use the whole of RDA; selecting which options to use will significantly reduce the size of “myRDA”.

More concerns

End-users are not involved; no-one has researched what they want

- RDA is based on the FRBR model which itself arises from world-wide consultation and decades of professional practice, and is focussed on user requirements.
- RDA has no proper data-model
 - FRBR is a formal entity-relationship model.

Recap

RDA is a new standard for resource description and access, designed for the digital environment

Multinational content standard covering all media

- Independent of technical communication formats

Aimed at all who need to find, identify, select, obtain, use, manage and organize information

Thank you

Participation required!

- Existing constituencies

Encourage others in different communities to engage

- More information from JSC website
 - www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc

Contact me

- g.dunsire@strath.ac.uk